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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086300

EXDIS HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT:CONSULTATIONS ON MAY NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING

1. FOLLOWING, FOR POSTS INFORMATION ONLY, SPEAKING NOTES USED IN WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO EMBASSIES ON TENTATIVE US APPROACH TO MAY LONDON NATO SUMMIT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

FOR THE NATO SUMMIT, WE ARE CONSIDERING CERTAIN POLICY THEMES WHICH WOULD UNDERSCORE OUR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE AND OUR DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR CLOSER POLITICAL AND MILITARY COOPERATION AMONG THE ALLIES. WE ARE SEEKING ALLIED REACTIONS, WHICH WILL HELP US IN
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CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PURSUE THESE IDEAS. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE

-- OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO A STRONG NATO DEFENSE AND TO THE STRATEGY OF FORWARD DEFENSE AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE; AND OUR INTENTION TO DEVELOP TOGETHER WITH OUR ALLIES THOSE PLANS AND PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS

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OF THE NEXT DECADE.

-- OUR INTEREST IN ACHIEVING A MORE BALANCED TWO-WAY STREET IN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND IN PROMOTING GREATER ALLIANCE COOPERATION IN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION;

-- OUR SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EFFORTS TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY AMONG THEMSELVES TO FURTHER THOSE OBJECTIVES;

-- OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN UNITY IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS;

-- OUR DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE POLITICALLY THROUGH A SERIOUS DEDICATION TO CONSULTATION ON ALL ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE ALLIANCE;

-- OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS THE RELEVANCE OF THIS COMMITMENT TO OUR POSITION IN THE WORLD.

WE MAY HAVE SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BY MINISTERS, THE COUNCIL/DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS. AGAIN, WE ARE SEEKING ALLIED REACTIONS,WHICHWILL HELP US IN DECIDING WHETHER TO PURSUE THESE IDEAS, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE:

-- AGREEMENT BY THE DEFENSE MINISTERS IN THE DPC TO
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DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PROGRAM IN KEY HIGH-PRIORITY AREAS TO COLLECTIVELY ADAPT ALLIANCE FORCES TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1980'S. THEY WOULD ALSO CONSIDER, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WHETHER NATO'S IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS NEED STRENGTHENING TO ASSIST IN THE FOLLOW-THROUGH ON AGREED PROGRAMS. AN ACTION PROGRAM WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE MAY 1978 NATO MEETING, WHICH MIGHT BE HELD AT SUMMIT LEVEL IF APPROPRI-ATE; AN INTERIM REPORT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DECEMBER 1977 MEETING.

-- US WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND JOINT EXAMINATION WITH CANADA AND THE EPG, WHENEVER EPG MEMBERS WISH, OF HOW TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ENGINEERING, PRODUCTION AND ACQUISITION IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MORE EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE COOPERATION, PROMOTE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES, ENHANCE NATO FORCES COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS, AND DEVELOP A MORE BALANCED TRANSATLANTIC TRADE IN THESE AREAS.

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ONE POSSIBILITY THAT COULD BE EXAMINED IN THIS STUDY IS
THAT OF ESTABLISHING A SMALL ADVISORY PANEL WHICH MIGHT
HAVE A MANDATE, FREE OF NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, TO ACT
AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING DEFENSE
EQUIPMENT PLANS, AND TO ADVISE ON WAYS OF IMPROVING
COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD.

-- THE ALLIANCE COULD CONDUCT, DRAWING ON EXPERTS FROM
CAPITALS, AN ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN
EUROPE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, OF THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF
THOSE TRENDS FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THE LONG-TERM
ROLE OF THE ALLIANCE IN THOSE RELATIONS. THE RESULTS
OF THIS MAJOR ASSESSMENT, WITH WHICH THE US WOULD SHARE
INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES, MIGHT ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE
MAY 1978 NATO MEETING, AND MIGHT HELP TO CREATE A MORE
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EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATION ON EAST-WEST
RELATIONS AND A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE NEED
FOR EFFECTIVE NATO DEFENSE WOULD BE MORE READILY PERCEIVED.

-- TO ASSIST IN THIS AND SIMILAR POLICY ASSESSMENTS WITH
LONG-RANGE POLITICAL AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS, A SMALL
NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED POLITICO-MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY
EXPERTS MIGHT BE RECRUITED FOR LIMITED PERIODS (2-3 YEARS)
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO HELP IN NATO'S
PREPARATION OF IMPARTIAL UNINSTRUCTED ASSESSMENTS
OF POLITICAL AND SECURTIY QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
BY THE NAC, THUS ENHANCING ITS CAPABT TTY FOR CONTINUING
CONSULTATIONS.

THESE IDEAS ARE HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND ARE PUT FORWARD ONLY
FOR PURPOSES OF CONSULTATION.
END TEXT.

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